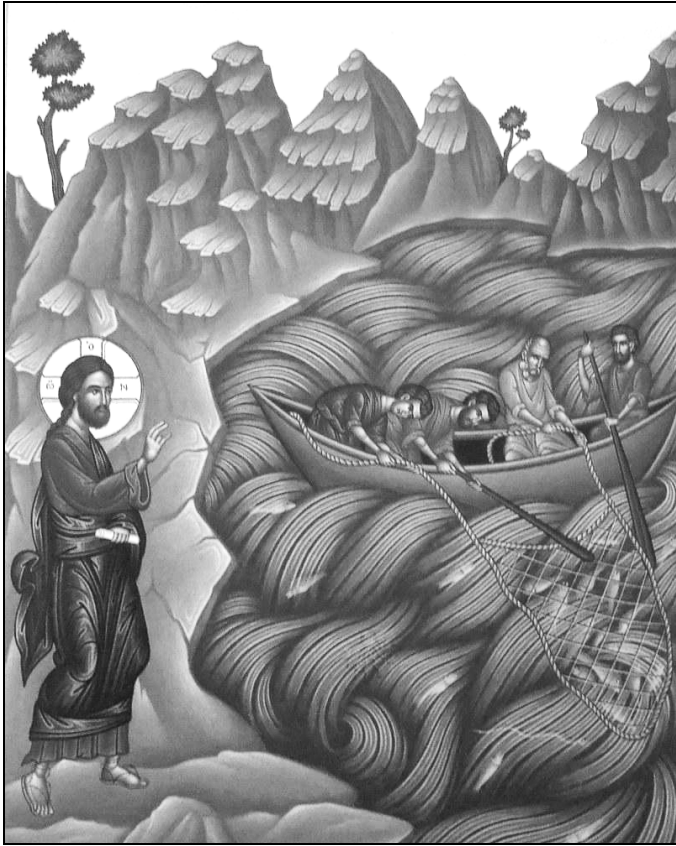




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 28th, 2025 + 16th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Saint Chariton the Confessor



Hymns for This Week

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. Our holy Father Chariton, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Thou didst delight in the monastic life, divinely-wise one, and conquered the bodily passions; thou didst increase in faith, blossoming as the Tree of Life in the midst of Paradise, most blessed and holy Chariton.

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Gospel Reading - Luke 5:1-11

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.



This Week's Schedule

Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, Sep 27th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Sep 28th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Church School w/ Fr. Innocent after Liturgy

Outreach Committee Meeting @ Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

Wed, October 1st

Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God

Divine Liturgy for the Feast @ 9 AM

Wed @ 6 PM - Akathist: St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

Wed @ 6:40 PM - Orthodoxy 101

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, Oct 4th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Oct 5th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Church School / Fall Youth Activities Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Epistle to the Romans with discussions.

ORTHODOXY 101 Wednesdays @ 6:40 PM following the Akathist Service (6 PM): Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **Sunday, October 26th**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Saturday, October 11th.**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, October 12th.**

WANTED: Coffee Hour Teams - Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour with a friend. Speak with Joanne Dutko to learn more and sign up.

St. TIKHON OF MOSCOW 100TH ANNIVERSARY: In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Repose of Saint Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow, His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania warmly invites the clergy and faithful of the Diocese to join him for a Festal Hierarchical **Divine Liturgy at All Saints Church, Olyphant, PA, on Saturday, October 18 2025, at 9:30 AM.** As indicated in the flyer, His Eminence will be greeted at 9:15 AM, and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM. Following the service, a festive luncheon will be offered to all in the Church Hall. Experienced parish singers are invited to participate in an ensemble choir that will be formed for this celebration.

FALL TEEN RETREAT November 14-16 hosted by the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, 2025 at Camp Hebron Retreat Center Halifax, PA. Applications will be open to Teens 7th to 12th Grade. The Diocese of Eastern PA Youth Ministries program focuses on creating opportunities for young people to deepen their faith, build lasting relationships, and engage in meaningful activities that support their journey in Christ. Retreat life centers on worship and spiritual formation as well as fellowship and fun through activities. HTOC will form a carpool to take youth to the camp. See Fr. Innocent if you have any questions. Apply At: youth.DOEPA.ORG

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER Birthdays: Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11), Marlene Stempien (10/14), Kristen Reznak (10/16), Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Anela Kurtz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Renee Eyerman (10/20), Nancy Pieck (10/20), Sarah Benczkowski (10/22), Mary Anya Haugh (10/27), Walter Shedlock (10/28), Marie Talpash (10/28) **Anniversaries:** Nancy & Mike Pieck (10/12), William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Marianne & Paul Newmeyer (10/16), Rebecca & Steve Leonori (10/23), Michael & Lisa Talpash (10/24)

This Week: Birthdays - Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30), Paul (Brett) Edwards (9/30), Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2) **Anniversaries** - N/A



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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From a Sermon on The Great Catch

by St. John Chrysostom

Beloved, let us reflect upon Peter, the fisherman, and how his obedience to Christ brought him from ignorance into divine revelation. He had toiled all night and caught nothing. Consider the weariness of labor and the frustration of failure. Yet when Christ commanded him to cast his net once more, Peter did not argue, though human reason would have told him otherwise. He did not say, "I am a fisherman, and You are a carpenter. I know better about these waters!" No, he simply said, "At Your word, I will let down the net."

It was obedience, my brethren, pure and simple, that brought forth the miraculous catch. The power did not lie in Peter's skill, for he had fished all night without success. The power lay in his obedience to Christ's word. It was not Peter's understanding that brought the fish into the net, but his trust in Christ, who commanded what seemed impossible.

This is the great lesson for us today: obedience to God, even in what we do not understand, brings us into the realm of

divine grace. There is no faith without obedience. When we act only according to what we understand, we limit ourselves to human knowledge, which is finite and flawed. But when we trust God in the things we do not understand, we open ourselves to His infinite wisdom.

Do you see, then, the fruit of Peter's obedience? Not only did he receive an abundance of fish, but he also received the revelation of Christ's divinity. For when he saw the great miracle, Peter fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" What is this, brethren? Peter, the fisherman, suddenly became a theologian! He understood that he stood not before an ordinary man, but before God Himself.

And how did this revelation come to Peter? It was through his obedience, through his willingness to follow a command that made no sense to him. In this act of trust, he was opened to the mystery of Christ.

We, too, are often called to cast our nets into the deep waters of life, not knowing what the outcome will be. We may toil and labor in vain, yet when Christ speaks, we must obey. Though we do not understand, His word is always true, and His promises will never fail. If we trust Him, we will see miracles not only in our circumstances, but in our hearts. For in obedience, we are drawn closer to God, and in that nearness, we come to know Him more deeply.

Beloved, do not rely on your own understanding, for it is weak and limited. Rely instead on the word of Christ. Follow Him in faith, and like Peter, you will find that obedience leads not only to earthly blessings, but to the greatest blessing of all: the revelation of God Himself.

Today's Saint (Sept 28) Saint Chariton the Confessor

Saint Chariton the Confessor was born at Iconium in the province of Lycaonia, and suffered there during a persecution against Christians in the reign of Emperor Aurelian (270-275). The example of the holy Protomartyr Thekla (September 24), who was also a native of his city, encouraged him to confess Christ, since he had a great devotion to her.

Saint Chariton bravely denounced the pagan gods and staunchly confessed faith in the one True God, Christ the Savior. The holy Confessor underwent fierce tortures but,

by God's Providence, he survived. The persecution ended after Aurelian's death in 275. Saint Chariton was among the many Christians who were released from prison, and he resolved to dedicate his entire life to the service of the Lord. Although he escaped death, he grieved because he had not received the crown of martyrdom.

After arriving at Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy places, he fell into the hands of thieves. They tied him up and threw him in a cave, intending to kill him later. After they left to find people to rob, the saint prayed fervently to God expecting to be put to death. He did not ask God to deliver him, but instead he entreated Him to do with him as He wished.

At this time a snake crawled into the cave and began to drink wine from a vessel setting there. Later it vomited forth its deadly venom, poisoning the wine. When they returned to the cave, the evil men drank the poisoned wine and they all perished. Thus, their wicked lives came to a fitting end. Saint Chariton gave thanks to God, and then he gave away the gold which the malefactors had stolen, distributing it to the poor, to churches, and to monasteries. He began his ascetic struggles in the place of his miraculous rescue, and there he built a church. In time a monastery was established: the renowned Pharan Lavra in Palestine. Saint Chariton's fame drew many disciples to him. He governed them with paternal affection, and he elevated them to the highest degrees of virtue.

Saint Chariton compiled a strict Rule for his monastery. Yearning for solitude, the monk withdrew farther into the desert in order to avoid the praise of men, but he never rejected anyone who sought his spiritual guidance. He founded two more monasteries: the Jericho (called the Monastery of Saint Chariton) and the Souka, which was called "the old Lavra." He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith.

At the end of his life, Saint Chariton struggled in a cave atop a hill near the Souka monastery, but he did not cease to provide guidance for all three of the monasteries which he founded. He fell asleep in the Lord peacefully and at an advanced age on September 28, 350.

According to Tradition, Saint Chariton compiled the Office of the Monastic Tonsure. Saint Chariton was buried at the Pharan monastery, in accordance with his last wishes. His grace-filled relics were enshrined in the church that had been built on the site of the robbers' cave.

Quotes on Today's Gospel Reading

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"As the apostles, through obedience to Christ, were made to be fishers of men, so are we, through obedience, drawn into the deep mysteries of God. It is only by submitting our will to Him that we are granted the eyes to see and the ears to hear the truths of the Kingdom."

St. Symeon the New Theologian

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"Often, we are called to follow Christ into the unknown, into places we do not understand. It is there, in the difficult and irrational moments of obedience, that the greatest revelations of grace are given. To trust Him when we do not know is to open ourselves to the fullness of His life."

Elder Aimilianos of Simona Petra



The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (9/21/25) : \$1,839
